POL 23-9 UVOLTA

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

Ouagadougou 216

CONFIDENTIAL

Action

ZCZC RUCJHK RUEHC RUEHCR RUFHPA RUQSDA
DE RUEHCR 012GP 0031815
ZNY CCCCC
O R 0318007
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 216
INFO RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 118
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 54
RUQSDA/AMEMBASSY ADDISABABA 24
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY COTONOU 76
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 78
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY LOME 63
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS 108
RUCJHK/CINCSTRIKE/USCINCMEAFSA UNN
STATE GRNC
BT

957
1966 JAN 3 PM 3

EB

C O N F I D E N T I A L JANUARY 3

REF: EMBTEL 213 — POL 23-9 UVOLTA
LAB 6-1 UVOLTA

SUBJ: GENERAL STRIKE OUAGADOUGOU

DEPT PASS AMB ESTES AND OTHER AF POSTS AS APPROPRIATE.

SITUATION GENERALLY CALM 1600 WITH CROWDS SLOWLY BREAKING UP AND RETURNING NATIVE SUBURBS. APPROXIMATELY 300 GENDARMERIS AND ELEVEN LIGHT ARMORED CARS GUARDING PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. ABOUT TWO TO THREE THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS WAITING OUTSIDE ARMY CAMP. NEAR CENTER TOWN FOR INDICATION ARMY POSITION.

[redacted] PRESIDENT

PAGE TWO RUEHCR 012GP C O N F I D E N T I A L
FIRMLY STATED WOULD NOT MEET OR NEGOTIATE WITH COMITE D'ACTION (REFTEL 213). [redacted] REPORTED DENIS YAMEOGO, PRESIDENT'S STRONG ARM MAN AND MINISTER INTERIOR, HAD WISHED FIRE ON DEMONSTRATORS BUT OTHER MINISTERS REFUSED CONTINUE WITH GOVT IF DID AND PRESIDENT AGREED WITH THEM.

[redacted] TALKED WITH [redacted] WHO AMONG MORNING DEMONSTRATORS. [redacted] STATED REPRESENTATIVES COMITE AND OTHERS HAD SEEN ARMY CHIEF STAFF LAMIZANA BEFORE MARCH ON PALACE. LAMIZANA, ACCORDING [redacted] HAD TEMPORIZED ABOUT JOINING DEMONSTRATORS SAYING "WE WILL SEE TOMORROW". [redacted] CONFIRMED/GROUP FROM DEMONSTRATORS DID SEE [redacted]

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LAMIZANA BUT BELIEVES LAMIZANA STILL LOYAL YAMEOGO AND WAS PUTTING OFF CROWD.

NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER RADICAL OR COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. CROWDS SHOUTING "VIVE MOBUTU" AND "VIVE SOGLO". ACQUAINTANCES AMONG CIVIL SERVICE DEMONSTRATORS BITTER ABOUT PROPOSED SALARY CUT, GENERALLY INDICATE DESIRABILITY CHANGE GOVT (PRESIDENT), BUT NO NAMES MENTIONED. DEMONSTRATION APPEARS MAINLY LOCAL REACTION ABROAD GROUP CONSISTING UNIONS AND CIVIL SERVICE WHO HAVE AROUSED SUPPORT CONSIDERABLE PARTY OF CITY. MISSIONARY ARRIVING FROM

PAGE THREE RUEHCR 012GP C O N F I D E N T I A L
BOBO-DIOULASSO, SOMEWHAT ANTIGOVT AREA, STATES SITUATION CALM THERE.

APPEARS THERE IS STALEMATE FOR MOMENT WITH POSSIBILITY RENEWED DEMONSTRATIONS TOMORROW AND CROWD MORE DANGEROUS. THIS MORNING WERE WHOLLY UNARMED BUT BY AFTERNOON MOST HAD STICKS AND PIPE. HAVE MOVED SHERWIN FAMILY FROM OTHER SIDE TOWN TO RESIDENCE AND SET UP STAFF WATCH AS ALL LOCAL EMPLOYEES INCLUDING WATCHMEN HAVE LEFT OR BEEN EXCUSED. EIGHT PEACE CORPS VISITORS (EMBTEL 212) DEPARTED THIS AFTERNOON BY RENTED CAR FOR NIAMEY AND RETURN NIGERIA, HAVING GIVEN UP INTENTION GO THROUGH GHANA. HAVE CONTACTED THE FOUR AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN TOWN. SUGGESTED SIT TIGHT BUT COME TO RESIDENCE IF OWN AREAS DIFFICULT. NO US PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN THREATENED BUT IN SEVERAL INSTANCES CROWDS AROUND EMBASSY AREA WERE THREATENING UNTIL LOCAL AND PERSONAL EMPLOYEES RELEASED. NO POLICE OR ARMY PROTECTION NEEDED TO DATE. WILL SEE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, DIPLOMATIC DOYEN, ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOMORROW.

GP-3. ROBERTS